

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today that the House of Representatives has approved funding for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

The funding will enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase land within the Connecticut River Valley.

"I am very pleased that I was able to secure funding for the Conte Wildlife Refuge. This funding will help us preserve the natural resources of the region," Olver said.

The funding was included in the Interior Appropriations conference report for fiscal year 2004. The House approved the report on September 10.

In FY02, Olver secured \$1.1 million in funding for the Conte Wildlife Refuge to purchase 140.8 acres of land.

"The Silvio O. Conte Refuge will continue to actively look for opportunities to preserve important fish and wildlife habitat," Olver said.

The conference report approved by the House yesterday is the reconciled version of separate House and Senate bills.

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge was authorized in 1991 through federal legislation.

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For more information, contact Andrew French, Project Leader, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, at 860/426-6100.